

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING  
EDUCATION/LICENSING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 25, 2024

**9:00 a.m.**

**Start Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** **NOTE:** Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 11133 a physical meeting location was not being provided.

**The Board of Registered Nursing held a public meeting via a teleconference platform.**

**January 25, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. BRN Education/Licensing Committee Meeting**

**9:00 a.m.**

**8.0**

**Call to order/roll call/establishment of a quorum.**

Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at: 9:00 a.m. All members present. Quorum was established at 9:01 a.m.

**Committee Members:** Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN-Chair  
Mary Fagan, PhD, RN, NEA-BC  
Dolores Trujillo, RN  
Patricia “Tricia” Wynne, Esq.

**BRN Staff:** Loretta (Lori) Melby, RN, MSN – Executive Officer  
Reza Pejuhesh – DCA Legal Attorney  
Mary Ann McCarthy, EdD, MSN, RN, PHN – Supervising Nursing Education Coordinator

9:02 a.m.

**8.1 Public comment for items not on the agenda; items for future agendas**

**Public Comment for  
Agenda Item 8.1:**

Chris Elsie, Nurse Support Group Facilitator for San Luis Obispo County – On 12/5/2023 he attended and made public comment at IEC meeting praising Virginia Matthews of Maximus for 87% success rate and made comments about BRN staff not responding to his comments about nurses going through the Maximus program. Reza Pejuhesh spoke up saying the speaker should not identify nurses in the program. He said one of his nurses took a job outside of passing medications and she was finishing intervention contract when she was told she had to work for six months passing narcotics before completing the program. He does not see any value for the nurse to have to do this in order to successfully complete the program. He said these are draconian requirements. He said there is another participant who is also going through this. If the BRN does not make changes he will be seeking redress in other ways.

No comments in the physical location in Sacramento.

Loretta Melby said the commenter is addressing an Enforcement Intervention Committee issue so the ELC would not be able to add an agenda item to a future meeting. This could be brought to a future board meeting or EIC meeting.

9:10 a.m.

**8.2 Review and vote on whether to approve previous meeting minutes**

➤ October 5, 2023

**Committee  
Discussion:**

**Motion:** Jovita Dominguez to approve the October 5, 2023, meeting minutes.

**Second:** Dolores Trujillo

**Public Comment for**

**Agenda Item 8.2:** No public comments on WebEx or Sacramento.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

**9:12 a.m.**

**8.3 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend ratification of minor curriculum revisions and acknowledge receipt of program progress reports (16 CCR § 1426), and whether to recommend ratification of clinical facility approval or other action (16 CCR § 1427) (consent) (schools under consideration are identified in the meeting materials)**

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne said these items seem innocuous and would support a motion. Dolores Trujillo agrees.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** to recommend ratification of minor curriculum revisions, clinical agency, or facility approvals, and acknowledge receipt of program progress reports.

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment for**

**Agenda Item 8.3:** No public comments.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

**9:17 a.m.**

**8.4 Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval, acceptance, or other action for approved nursing programs (consent)**

**Continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421 & 1423)**

- 8.4.1** University of California Irvine Entry Level Master’s Degree Program
- 8.4.2** University of California Irvine Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.3** Angeles College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.4** California State University San Bernardino Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.5** San Francisco State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.6** San Francisco State University Entry Level Master’s Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.7** College of the Canyons Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.8** El Camino Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.9** Los Angeles Trade Tech College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.10** Mount San Antonio College Associate Degree Nursing Program
- 8.4.11** Mount San Jacinto College Associate Degree Nursing Program

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend approval of requested clinical practice experience for nurse practitioner students enrolled in non-California based nurse practitioner education programs (16 CCR § 1486)**

- 8.4.12** St. Louis University St. Louis, MO

- 8.4.13 Andrews University Berrien Springs, MI
- 8.4.14 Regis College Weston, MA
- 8.4.15 University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences St. Augustine, FL

**Committee**

**Discussion:** No comments or questions.

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** to recommend continuing approval of prelicensure nursing programs and approval of clinical practice experience required for nurse practitioner students enrolled in non-California based nurse practitioner education programs.

**Second:** **Mary Fagan**

**Public Comment for**

**Agenda Item 8.4:** Reza asked if this is for 8.4.12-8.4.15. Mary Ann McCarthy said this is for 8.4.1-8.4.15.

No public comments on WebEx or Sacramento location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

9:21 am

8.5

**Discussion and possible action regarding whether to recommend continuing approval or other action for approved nursing programs (BPC § 2788; 16 CCR §§ 1421 & 1423) (present)**

**8.5.1** California State University San Marcos Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Jovita Dominguez asked how much time the program needs to come into compliance with the seven items. Wendy Hansbrough, school representative, said NEC, Heather Hunter has been working hand in glove with the program to bring all the deficiencies current. They found a way to bring military education experience current and this should be resolved in the fall. MOUs with clinical partners and EDP-P-18 forms were sent to Heather yesterday and these should all be resolved by the end of February. Loretta Melby went over the CCR deficiencies and said they should all be resolved by the fall. She said the board typically allows for one year to resolve issues. If the school is brought to the ELC and board in January/February 2025 that should resolve the deficiencies. Jovita Dominguez asked for the language of a motion and Loretta Melby and Mary Ann McCarthy said the possible motion on the screen could be used.

Patricia Wynne complemented CSU San Marcos on their compliance work. She asked about the high attrition rate. Wendy Hansbrough said this is on the top of her list for program improvement. She said when the change was made to a four-year 120-unit program is when this changed. She said the rate is not 9% but 17%. Most are withdrawing because they don't want to be nurses. She said when they graduate from high school, they don't realize what is required to become a nurse. She wants to change the program to be a 2x2. Have more career counseling working with the young students. Patricia Wynne said the information was very educational. The high attrition rate is for the traditional track not the advanced track.

**9:35 am**

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** to recommend deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for California State University San Marcos Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the areas of non-compliance with quarterly reports to the NEC and return to ELC/Board in 1 year (Jan/Feb 2025).

**Second:** **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment for  
Agenda Item 8.5.1:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

**9:37 am**

**8.5.2** Vanguard University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Patricia Wynne appreciates the attrition rate updates that are better than reported. She would like to hear from the school.

Katherine Tong, school representative, thanks the board and NEC, Kimberly Knight. She too was alarmed by their NCLEX scores. She said due to COVID their students could not go into the hospital and most had to go online. They worked alongside BRN and ATI to institute a robust prep policy that included looking into practice assessments that identified students who might fail and allowed them to give an incomplete and work with the students to improve.

Mary Fagan appreciates the movement towards compliance.

**9:42 am**

**Motion:** **Mary Fagan:** to recommend deferring action on the continuing approval status for Vanguard University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance and to also recommend quarterly reports to the NEC and return to ELC/Board in 1-year (Jan/Feb 2025).

**Second:** **Jovita Dominguez**

**Public Comment for  
Agenda Item 8.5.2:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

**9:44 am**

**8.5.3 Palomar College Associate Degree Nursing Program**

**Committee**

**Discussion:** Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from the school.

Julie Van Houten, school representative, appreciated the continuing approval visit and working with their NEC, Kimberly Knight, to get back into compliance. California Code of Regulations section 1427(c), Julie said this is the affiliation agreements. They've been working with their contacts to rewrite their contracts and have made progress but continue to work to complete all contracts. Dolores Trujillo asked if the program still needed three months. Julie said they hope to have all the contracts completed within that time period.

**9:47 am**

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** recommends deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Palomar College Associate Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance and recommend quarterly reports to the NEC and return to ELC/Board in 1-year (Jan/Feb 2025).

**Second:** **Dolores Trujillo**

**Public Comment for**

**Agenda Item 8.5.3:** No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:				



	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

**Motion Passed**

**9:49 am**

**8.5.4 Solano College Associate Degree Nursing Program**

**Committee Discussion:**

The committee members asked to hear from the school representative. Maire Morinec, school representative, said they've resolved the faculty non-compliance for those not teaching a required nursing program course. They're working to obtain their peds clinical placements at Oakland UCSF, Children's Hospital as well as in one of their school districts with school nurses at multiple sites. They are working to update all contracts and approvals and expect to comply with this by February.

Dolores Trujillo wants to know about the Mountain Measures. Maire Morinec explained the Mountain Measures. Loretta Melby added more information about this as a means to help remedy exam score deficiencies when compared to the nursing program curriculum and delivery.

**9:55 am**

**Motion:** **Jovita Dominguez:** recommends deferring taking action on the continuing approval status for Solano College Associate Degree Nursing Program while they work to clear the area(s) of non-compliance and recommend quarterly reports to the NEC and return to ELC/Board in 1-year (Jan/Feb 2025).

**Second:** **Patricia Wynne**

**Public Comment for Agenda Item 8.5.4:**

No public comments in any location.

**Vote:**

Vote:	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
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	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB			

**Motion Passed**

**9:57 a.m.**

**8.6 Discussion and possible action regarding acceptance of substantive changes to an approved program (present) (16 CCR §§ 1426 & 1432) (present)**

**8.6.1 Unitek College Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (enrollment increase)**

**Committee Discussion:**

Patricia Wynne wanted to discuss both items in 8.6 to consider the overall impact of the enrollment increases in the Fresno area. Loretta Melby said Public Comment could be opened for 8.6.1 now due to several attendees wanting to speak about this. She also pointed the members to page 110 showing program enrollments in the area. She spoke about the program’s enrollment request of 50 students annually. She spoke about the 8.6.2 request for a new campus.

Abdel Yosef, school representative, asked if he could address the issue. He said this is a seven-year agreement with Community Health Hospital who has 560 immediate openings. He said this is for existing staff who are interested in promoting to the RN level and the clinicals will be within the hospital. This ADN program is very affordable. They had great outcomes in Fremont with this type of program. The students live within the community, and they will stay and work in the community. They worked with the consortium to make sure they can accommodate these new students without impacting other students in clinical rotations. Loretta Melby said the board cannot consider workforce needs and referenced the Business and Professions Code section 2786.

Mary Fagan asked if the students are doing all clinical rotations within Community Health System, including peds, psych and OB. Abdel said the health care system can meet all clinical objectives.

Dolores Trujillo asked to hear public comments.

After Public Comment:

Patricia Wynne said she's impressed with this request but would like to hear how it correlates with the next item. She would like to hear the next item and come back for the motion on this one. Loretta Melby asked Reza if that is acceptable. Reza said it makes sense so long as there is public comment for the next item before taking action.

Mary Fagan said she has a flight to catch and must leave the meeting before hearing the next item. She's impressed with the request as well. (Left meeting at 10:17 a.m. – quorum still intact)

**10:10 am Public Comment for  
Agenda Item 8.6.1:**

Marie Gilbert, Director at Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing – All central valley is planning expansion to promote equity and quality learning experiences for all. She said Unitek presented to their group showing how their students will complete their clinical training without impacting other students and is actively working with the group.

Heather Rodriguez, CNO and President for Community Health Systems – They are working with all programs to meet their clinical needs and provide support to their staff as well.

No public comment in Sacramento.

**10:59 am**

**Motion:**

**Patricia Wynne:** to recommend acceptance of the substantive change(s) requested by an approved program and approve the enrollment increase for Unitek College at their Fremont Campus with

an enrollment pattern of 25 students twice a year, for a total of 50 new students annually which brings the total annual enrollment of the Fremont Campus to 210 students. This approval is conditional on retaining the contract with Community Health Systems for seven years and if that contract changes or ends they will revert back to existing enrollment numbers.

**Second: Dolores Trujillo**

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**

**10:17 am**

**8.6.2 Samuel Merritt University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program (addition of a new campus or location)**

**Committee Discussion:**

Dolores Trujillo asked to hear from the school. Steven Rush, school representative, said this is a new campus and expansion of their existing program in multiple locations in northern California. It's a brand new site with a beautiful simulation center. Dolores Trujillo asked which hospitals Samuel Merritt is contracted with for clinicals. Steven said St. Agnes, Community Regional, Clovis Medical Center, UCSF Fresno, and looking at Clovis and surrounding cities including the VA and Kaiser. Dolores Trujillo asked about peds clinicals. Steven said community practice sites and Kaiser. He said they do a lot of clinicals on nights and weekends.

Jovita Dominguez is unsure if Fresno would be able to handle both programs. Unitek is asking for 50 and Samuel Merritt is asking for 96.

Patricia Wynne is concerned with this number as well and whether they can both get quality clinical placements. She asked if Loretta Melby is able to assist the members to figure out this area and whether they would be doing the right thing to approve these programs. Loretta Melby said there are two additional letters submitted by schools on the website in the supplemental information for 8.6.2 that have some concerns with the impact. She suggested going to public comment to hear from interested parties. She spoke about the dashboard on the board's website showing a snapshot of the data. She said when you look at these rural areas such as Lemoore there are fewer resources. The schools that sent in the two letters are asking to work with this program to assure there are sufficient clinical placements. She recommends going to public comment again to hear the direct impact from the community.

After Public Comment:

Jovita Dominguez asked the committee members for their thoughts.

Dolores Trujillo said she thought this should go to full board for consideration. Jovita Dominguez agreed and said she's been to the Fresno area and is not sure that area can handle an additional 150 students.

Mary Ann McCarthy asked if the nursing program representatives could speak again. Patricia Wynne said she would like to hear from them due to the concerns over the numbers of nursing students in this area. She spoke about Unitek coming to the ELC with signed agreements in place and if they can be approved conditionally and is inclined to look at them again at the board meeting in a month. Dolores Trujillo asked Patricia Wynne to clarify her statement that these two programs come to the next ELC not board meeting.

Loretta Melby said procedurally there needs to be two motions, one for each program, Unitek and Samuel Merritt. She asked if the request is to postpone only Samuel Merritt. Dolores Trujillo said yes. Loretta Melby said clarification should be made in each motion. Loretta Melby said if the ELC wants additional

information it will require additional staff work by the NECs and others prior to the next board meeting. She said the next ELC is in April and board in May.

Unitek – Abdel Yosef, said their program is unique in that they already have an agreement with the clinical partner to accommodate all their rotations and they have worked with the consortium leaders and their clinical partner spoke in support of their request. They also have community support for their request. Their model has worked previously without displacing other nursing programs. He does not think their request needs to be pushed to another meeting. If the clinical agreement expires then they will eliminate those seats. He requests the two requests be separated. They also have faculty for their slots as well.

Samuel Merritt – Steven Rush, doesn't have specific comments to make. He sees the major concern as clinical placements. They will try to get the clinical agreements in place prior to the next ELC meeting which would be better than the board meeting. He said he is very new to this position. He is willing to meet with the consortium and community partners. He is open to any other questions. Brian Clocksin, Samuel Merritt provost, appreciates the conversation and need for clinical agreements for placements. They are willing to do nights and weekends. He hopes this will not delay the process as they are looking to recruit students. He is concerned that there could be additional approvals for other programs in the area that could hinder their ability to move forward. He said they are looking to expand the clinical footprint north and south of Fresno. Mary Ann McCarthy clarified the nursing program review and approval process. She said the only program that could be approved right now would be Unitek whose request is for 50. She said Unitek's is an ADN and Samuel Merritt's is an accelerated BSN program.

Patricia Wynne appreciates that both programs are willing to work with ELC. She is interested in making a conditional approval for Unitek.

Jovita Dominguez asked for clarification about the conditional motion. Loretta Melby said Unitek is asking for 50 which is 25 for each for two starts in a year.

She explained how a program would hire faculty for one start versus two starts. She said the motion could be for the number of students and base it on the contract language that is for seven years. Patricia Wynne is comfortable with the 50 students. Dolores Trujillo is also comfortable with the 50 students based on the seven-year contract. Mary Ann McCarthy said the motion can include specific language based on the contract.

See Motion for Unitek above at 8.6.1

After Unitek Motion and Vote:

Loretta Melby explained the enrollment pattern for Samuel Merritt as 48 twice a year for 96 students. They also have a brand new campus waiting for these students. If the ELC wants to consider the public comments made at this meeting to address clinical placements, then they can be moved to the next ELC.

Patricia Wynne appreciates the school working to meet the concerns. Dolores Trujillo would like to be able to consider the entire enrollment versus cutting them in half and have them come back at the next ELC. Patricia Wynne asked if this is a motion then she would agree. Dolores Trujillo asked Mary Ann McCarthy if that's enough time for them to work on this. Steven Rush said that should be enough time to work with the community to build relationships.

After Motion and Vote for Samuel Merritt:

Dolores Trujillo thanked the school representatives for their willingness to work on this request. Loretta Melby thanked them as well since they are the first program to go through this process. She said staff will work with them to try and get this done in one meeting.

**10:32 am Public Comment for  
Agenda Item 8.6.2:**

Marie Gilbert, Director at Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing – She submitted a letter with much more detail but is asking the ELC to defer approval of Samuel Merritt's request. They attended the academic service

partnership meeting to provide information regarding their program that they want to open in Fresno. She said there's a lack of information about where their clinical placements will be completed. However, Samuel Merritt has definitely demonstrated goodwill by stating they will not use common Fresno clinical sites and instead use sites in the south valley however there are other programs that have expanded clinical placements and availability is now significantly impacted. They do careful and collaborative planning with all involved. They would like Samuel Merritt to continue to work closely with them to promote success.

Kathryn DeFede, Director of Westhills College, Lemoore – She submitted a letter and Dr. Gilbert did a good job summing up the concerns. They want to support Samuel Merritt and Unitek but they work closely and collaboratively to be as transparent as possible. They want to do what they can to work without displacements. They would like Samuel Merritt to come back to their group to have further discussions about clinical placements.

Belen Kersten – She lives in Visalia and discussed the other programs who have expanded to Visalia and is concerned where these students would be placed.

No public comments in Sacramento.

**11:05 am**

**Motion:** **Dolores Trujillo:** to defer decision on Samuel Merritt University's Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program request to the next ELC in April 2024.

**Second:** **Jovita Dominguez**

**Vote:**

	<b>JD</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>MF</b>	<b>PW</b>
Vote:	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>Y</b>
<u>Key:</u> Yes: Y   No: N   Abstain: A   Absent for Vote: AB				

**Motion Passed**



11:07 am

8.7 Adjournment

- Jovita Dominguez, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

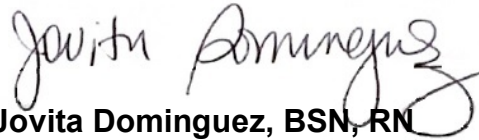


**Loretta Melby, MSN, RN**

Executive Officer

California Board of Registered Nursing

Accepted by:



**Jovita Dominguez, BSN, RN**

President

California Board of Registered Nursing